

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02
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FM AMCONSUL NICE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1260

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

AMCONSUL LYON

AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

UNCLAS NICE 038

E.O. 11652 : N/A

TAGS : PINT, FR

SUBJECT : RETURN TO CORSICA OF MILITANT LEADER, EDMOND SIMEONI

REF : NICE A-11 OF 6/18/76: PARIS 2342 AND PREVIOUS

1. DR EDMOND SIMEONI, THE CORSICAN AUTONOMIST LEADER WAS WELCOMED BACK TO THE ISLAND ON JANUARY 22, 1977 FOLLOWING HIS RELEASE ON CONDITIONAL LIBERTY FROM LA SANTE PRISON IN PARIS. THE FORMER HEAD OF ACTION FOR THE REBIRTH OF CORSICA (A.R.C.), WAS RELEASED JANUARY 14TH AFTER HAVING SERVED A PORTION OF HIS SENTENCE FOR HIS PART IN THE SHOOTINGS IN ALERIA (CORSICA) IN WHICH TWO POLICEMENT WERE KILLED IN AUGUST 1975. SIMEONI, WHO WAS SENTENCED TO FIVE YEARS OF IMPRISONMENT IN JUNE 1976 BY THE SPECIAL STATE SECURITY COURT, WAS GRANTED AN EARLY RELEASE FOR GOOD CONDUCT.

2. IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING HIS ARRIVAL BY PRIVATE AIRCRAFT ON JANUARY 22 AT BASTIA, SIMEONI PROCEEDED TO THE CITY CENTER WHERE HE WAS WELCOMED BY OVER 6,000 SUPPORTERS FROM THROUGHOUT THE ISLAND WHOM HE ADDRESSED IN A CIRCUS TENT ERECTED FOR THE OCCASION. HIS RETURN WAS WELCOMED PUBLICLY BY THE LEADERS OF LOCAL
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ORGANIZATIONS OF THE A.P.C. (ASSOCIATION DES PATRIOTES CORSES), THE SUCCESSOR TO A.R.C. PUBLIC ORDER WAS ASSURED DURING THE SPEECH, BY MEMBERS OF THE A.R.C. AS WELL AS BY AN AUGMENTED POLICE FORCE. SIMEONI PRECEDED HIS ADDRESS BY EMPHASIZING THAT HE WOULD SPEAK AS A QUOTE MILITANT NATIONALIST, PROGRESSIONIST AND REVOLUTIONARY UNQUOTE. FOLLOWING A BRIEF ANALYSIS OF NATIONALIST SENTIMENT WHICH, HE SAID, HAS BEEN

EVIDENT THROUGHOUT THE ISLAND'S HISTORY, SIMEONI TRACED THE DEVELOPMENT OF AUTONOMIST MOVEMENTS IN CORSICA UP TO 1975. AFTER EXPLAINING HIS REASONS FOR HIS DESIRE FOR PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATIONS FOR CORSICAN INDEPENDENCE, SIMEONI MADE AN IMPASSIONED PLEA FOR THE IMMEDIATE REMOVAL OF THE PREFECT OF THE CORSICAN REGION, JEAN RIOLACCI, A CORSICAN BY BIRTH.

3. IN ADDRESSING THE ENTHUSIASTIC AUDIENCE, WHO OFTEN INTERRUPTED HIS SPEECH WITH SHOUTS OF SUPPORT, SIMEONI PROPOSED A BASIC COLLECTIVE PROGRAM WHICH HE HOPES WILL BE ADOPTED BY THE VARIOUS AUTONOMIST GROUPS IN CORSICA. INCLUDED IN HIS PROPOSED PROGRAM ARE 1) GENERAL AMNISTY FOR ALL CORSICAN "PATRIOTS" : 2) UNIFIED STRUGGLE AGAINST REPRESSION AND ALSO AGAINST TOURIST TRUSTS (PRESUMABLY - LARGE ORGANIZED TOURIST ORGANIZATIONS WHICH EXPLOIT THE ISLAND TO DETRIMENT OF CORSICAN BUSINESSMEN): 3) CREATION OF A CORSICAN ORGANIZATION WHICH WOULD HAVE AS ITS GOALS : A) THE SETTLEMENT OF THE UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEM BY GIVING PREFERENCE TO CORSICAN WORKERS : B) SETTING UP OF A "CHARTER FOR THE EXILES" (I.E. PIEDS-NOIRS RESIDENTS OF THE ISLAND): C) EXPLOITATION OF THE INTERIOR OF THE ISLAND: D) RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC LIFE IN CORSICA : E) DEFENSE OF THE CORSICAN CULTURAL HERITAGE.

4. IN CONCLUDING HIS WELCOME-HOME SPEECH, DR SIMEONI TOLD THE CORSICAN PEOPLE THAT HE FORESEES A VERY DIFFICULT AND HARD STRUGGLE AHEAD. HE IS SINCERELY CONVINCED THAT THE GOVERNMENT IN PARIS HAVE UNDERSTOOD NOTHING OF CORSICA'S PROBLEMS.

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment:
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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